

University of  
Massachusetts  
Press

New Books for  
**Spring & Summer**  
**1998**

With Selected Backlist

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*Cover art: A View from the Mangrove by Tomás Sanchez. Courtesy of Sotheby's*

*Other art credits are on page 30.*

## A View from the Mangrove

Antonio Benítez-Rojo

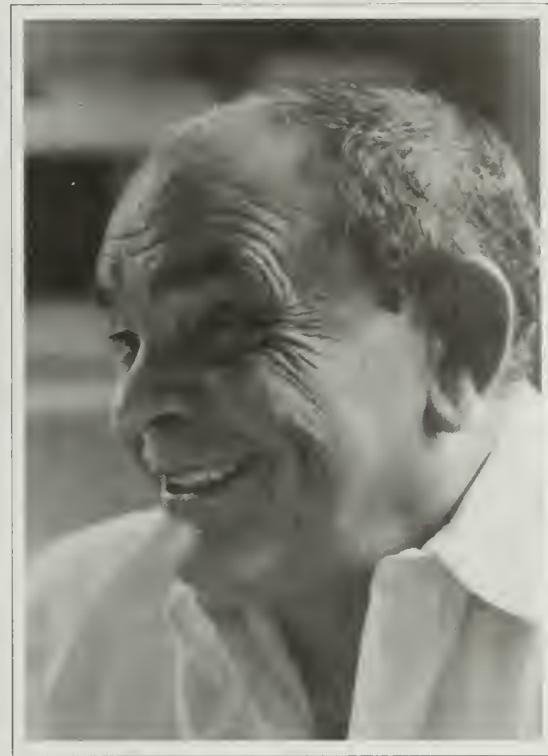
Translated by James Maraniss

New fiction from the author of  
*Sea of Lentils* and *The Repeating Island*

In this masterful collection of short stories, a celebrated Cuban writer continues his imaginative exploration of the genesis of the modern Caribbean world. Intent on recovering the interior history (*la infrahistoria*) of this astonishingly diverse region, Antonio Benítez-Rojo ranges widely across time and geography. He also experiments with a variety of narrative techniques and prose styles, each intended to capture some unique aspect of the Caribbean's heterogeneous, polyrhythmic cultural heritage. Thus "The Broken Flute" centers on a tragic anthropological reflection; "Windward Passage" on the confessions of a guilty priest stationed in Hispaniola; "Summer Island" on events surrounding the colonization of St. Kitts; and "A View from the Mangrove" on the troubled days of a soldier during Cuba's War of Independence.

The result is historical fiction of the first order, a vivid tapestry of characters and contexts. Whether describing the world through the eyes of a seventeenth-century African slave or an English slave trader, a French buccaneer or a Spanish official, an Aztec god's avatar or a Haitian *grand blanc*, Benítez-Rojo displays a rare gift for resurrecting the past in all its chaotic and compelling immediacy.

"Benítez-Rojo has an extraordinary talent for sensing the drama of those turning points that have shaped, even determined, Caribbean history. He is a master story-teller, and deserves a place among the best of contemporary Latin American writers."—Adriana Méndez Rodenas, author of *Gender and National*



*ism in Colonial Cuba: The Travels of Santa Cruz y Montalvo, Condesa de Merlin*

"The Repeating Island established Benítez-Rojo as the Caribbean's most formidable critic practicing on this continent. *Sea of Lentils* alongside this new collection shows he is in the first rank of fiction writers."—Fred D'Aguiar, author of *Dear Future*

Former director of the Center for Caribbean Studies at Casa de las Américas in Cuba, ANTONIO BENÍTEZ-ROJO is the Thomas B. Walton, Jr., Memorial Professor at Amherst College. JAMES MARANISS is professor of Spanish at Amherst College and author of *On Calderón*.

Fiction / Caribbean Literature  
240 pp., LC 97-43469  
\$24.95t cloth, ISBN 1-55849-136-8  
May 1998

*Not for sale in the British Commonwealth except Canada*

By the same author  
and translator

## Sea of Lentils

Named a Notable Book of the Year by  
the *New York Times Book Review*



Benítez-Rojo  
"plays upon  
Spanish-American history  
rousingly, with  
an incessant hail  
of luminous,  
violent imagery  
and an unmistakable indignation."

... He writes wonderfully, with life, edge, and the density of a poem."

—John Updike, *New Yorker*

216 pp., LC 90-31381  
\$30.00s cloth, ISBN 0-87023-723-3  
\$15.95s paper, ISBN 0-87023-754-3  
1990

*Not for sale in the British Commonwealth  
except Canada*

| order by fax toll free

1-800-488-1144  
or call 413-545-2219

## Bram Fischer

Afrikaner Revolutionary

Stephen Clingman

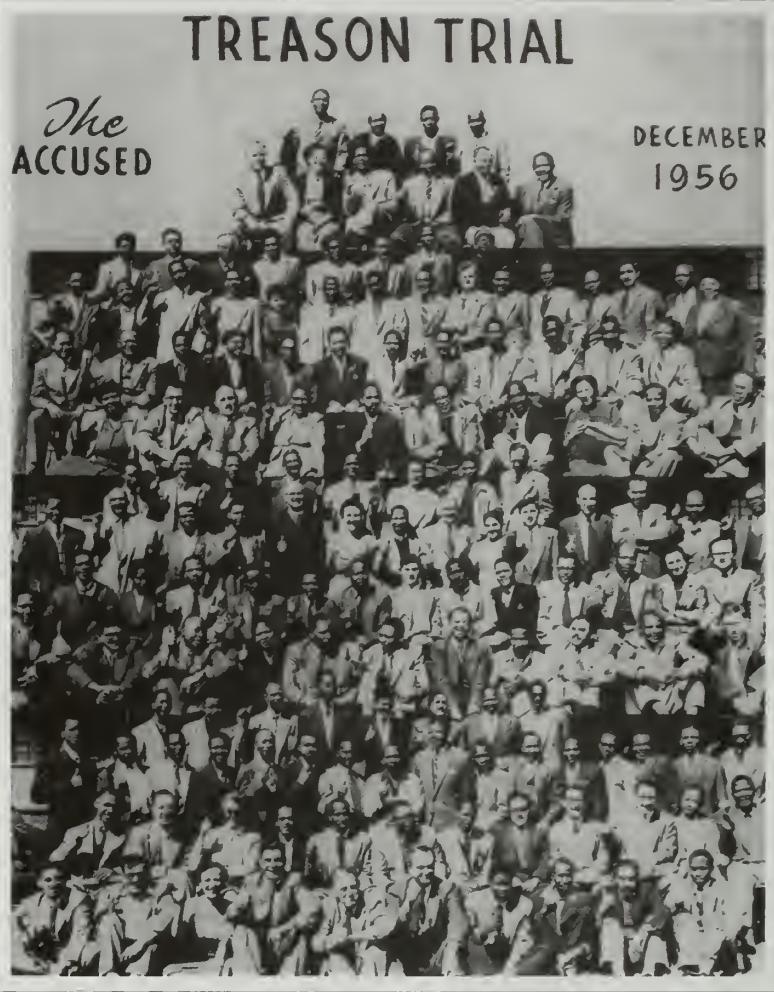
The extraordinary story of a pioneering anti-apartheid leader

In May 1966, Bram Fischer was sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa for his political activities against the policies of apartheid. Before his sentencing he had spent nine months underground, in disguise, evading a nationwide manhunt. He was South Africa's most wanted man, his cause recognized and celebrated around the world.

What had brought him to these circumstances? And what led to his untimely death after nine years in prison? This meticulous and finely crafted biography follows a fascinating journey of conscience and personal transformation.

Fischer was born into one of the most prominent Afrikaner nationalist families, yet came to understand that to be a South African in the fullest sense he had to identify with all of South Africa's people. A Rhodes Scholar and distinguished lawyer, endowed with gifts of intelligence, charisma, and integrity, he abandoned the temptations of power and prestige to ensure human rights and justice for all. Drawn to communism in order to solve problems of race, he offered revised versions and visions of both.

Covering more than one hundred years of South African history, the book ranges from the stories of Fischer and his wife, Molly, to the courtroom drama of South Africa's great political trials, to the political intrigue of the 1960s and beyond. It is a remarkable story, remarkably told. Weaving the personal and the public, Stephen Clingman's biography is an account of tragedy and transcendence, showing how the miracle of South Africa's transition to democracy was deeply connected to the legacy of Bram Fischer.



"This is not only the story of an extraordinary personality but also an extraordinary family, and the time and place of one of the twentieth century's most devastating experiments in the denial of common humanity. How Bram Fischer resolved—in sacrifice of material success, easy honors, personal freedom, and finally his life—the contradictions of his situation as a white and Afrikaner is told with honesty, deep intelligence, and admirable skill worthy of the subject. The apartheid government would not give Fischer's ashes to his children. He has no monument in stone; but this book is testimony that his life continues in his great contributions to the free South Africa now realized."—Nadine Gordimer, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature

"A fascinating and original story of the life and times of a great South African. . . . It is an outstanding contribution to our understanding of modern South African history."—Thomas G. Karis, coeditor of *From Protest to Challenge: A Documentary History of African Politics in South Africa, 1882–1990*

Born in South Africa, STEPHEN CLINGMAN is professor and chair of the English department at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Biography / South African History / Black Studies  
512 pp., 26 illustrations  
\$29.95 cloth, ISBN 1-55849-135-X  
March 1998

For sale in the United States and Canada only

# **Paul Robeson**

The Years of Promise and Achievement

Sheila Tully Boyle and Andrew Bunie

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A compelling biography of a great American in his formative years

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The son of a former slave, Paul Robeson (1898–1978) rose to become an All-American athlete, Phi Beta Kappa student, internationally celebrated singer and actor, and champion of racial equality. Yet despite his courage and many accomplishments, he could not overcome the combined effects of racism and McCarthyism, and was forced to live his last years in internal exile under FBI surveillance.

Over twenty years in preparation, this massively researched biography takes Robeson from his humble beginnings in rural New Jersey to international fame on the eve of World War II. Drawing on a variety of new sources as well as existing archives, the book presents a fully rounded picture—a portrait that corrects, supplements, and revises previous work on Robeson and his circle.

"More than any other recent biography, this book helps us understand Robeson's fusion of art and scholarship, his feeling for languages, his search for an alternative to racism that eventually led him to the Soviet Union and to alignment with the Left generally. The work offers a moving portrayal of the racist indignities and insults to which he was subjected. . . . This is likely to become the standard scholarly Robeson biography."—Herbert Shapiro, author of *White Violence and Black Response*

"Painstakingly examines the transformation of Paul Robeson from an accommodating, uninvolved aspiring actor to an acutely conscious, passionately active political figure involved in



the struggle against racism. The authors recount in considerable detail Robeson's early life up to the outbreak of World War II and thoroughly analyze his theatrical work against a backdrop of steadily maturing political consciousness."—Joseph Boskin, author of *Sambo: The Rise and Demise of an American Jester*

SHEILA TULLY BOYLE is an editor and writer who specializes in American studies. ANDREW BUNIE is professor of history at Boston College. He is author of *The Negro in Virginia Politics* and *Robert L. Vann and the Pittsburgh Courier*, and coauthor of *Boston: City on a Hill*.

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Biography / American History / Black Studies  
544 pp., 25 illustrations  
\$39.95t cloth, ISBN 1-55849-149-X  
August 1998

# A True Republican

The Life of Paul Revere

Jayne E. Triber

The first full-length biography of Revere in over fifty years

Portraying the man behind the myth, *A True Republican* goes beyond the famous "ride" to explore Paul Revere's larger role in the American Revolution, the evolution of his political thought, and his transformation from Revolutionary artisan to entrepreneur in the early republic. Jayne E. Triber's insightful reading of both primary and secondary sources—including government documents, Masonic records, and Revere's personal and business papers—illuminates the social, cultural, and economic factors that shaped Revere's Revolutionary activities as well as his ardent interpretation of republicanism. Through the lens of one man's life, Triber explores the meaning and attraction of republicanism for artisans, the social structure of Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary America, the importance of Freemasonry, and the development of political parties in the newly formed republic.

"The best full biography we have of Revere."—Gordon S. Wood, author of *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*

"Based on extensive work in the papers of Revere and his contemporaries, as well as in the Boston press, this book provides a solid, believable picture of Revere. It will become the first resort for scholars looking for information on Revere and his connections and will fill an important gap in the literature of the period. Its clear writing and relative brevity should make it valuable for

classroom use and there should be a broader interest from general readers."

—Steven C. Bullock, author of *Revolutionary Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transformation of the American Social Order*

JAYNE E. TRIBER is an independent scholar.

Biography / American History  
336 pp., 13 illustrations, LC 97-32621  
\$29.95t cloth, ISBN 1-55849-139-2  
May 1998



## Of related interest

### Celebrating the Fourth

Independence Day and the Rites of Nationalism in the Early Republic

Len Travers

#### A Choice Outstanding Academic Book

"Thoughtful, instructive, and entertaining . . . Travers adds detail and clarity to our map of early American history by concentrating on the way in which Americans understood and performed their new national ritual."—(London) *Times Literary Supplement*

288 pp., LC 96-18431  
\$29.95s cloth, ISBN 1-55849-060-4  
1997

# The Book of American Windsor Furniture

Styles and Technologies

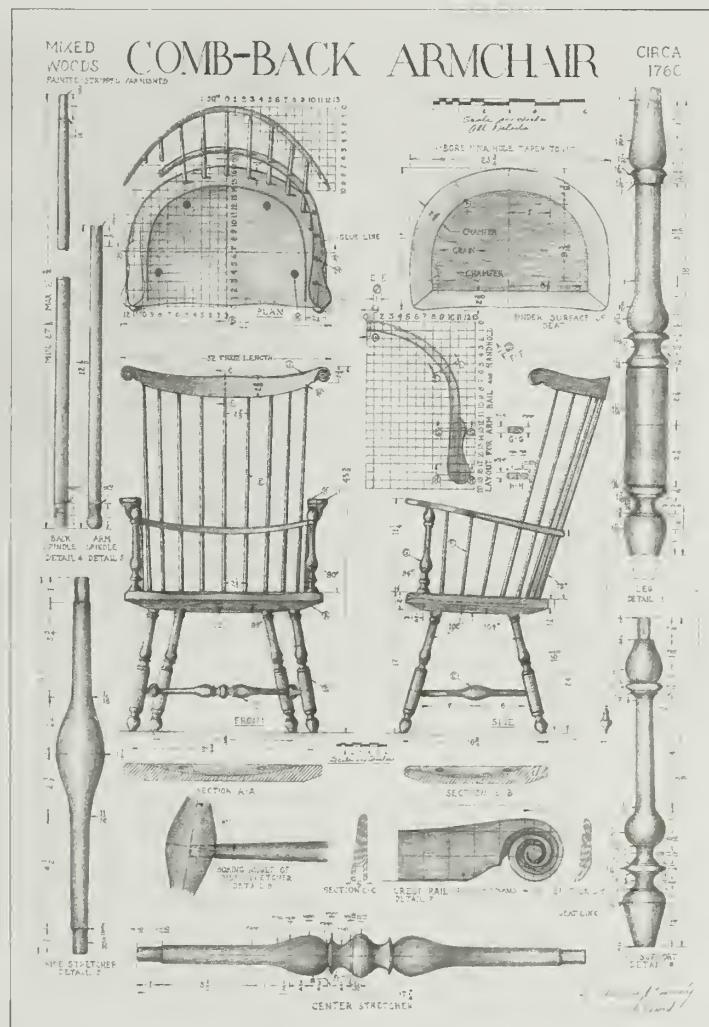
John Kassay

A beautifully illustrated book that serves as both an introduction to Windsor furniture and a guide for creating reproductions

When John Kassay published *The Book of Shaker Furniture* in 1980, it was universally praised for its exquisitely rendered and finely detailed drawings of Shaker furniture. In the intervening years, Kassay has turned his attention to Windsor furniture and has now produced an elegant and informative guide to the Windsor style.

Combining comfort, simplicity, and craftsmanship, Windsor chairs have long been prized by collectors. Introduced from England in the early 1700s, the Windsor style took hold in America first as seating for the well-to-do and later as the favorite chair of the general population. Included in the Windsor family are stools, tables, settees, high chairs, cradles, and candle stands, but the greatest variety is found in the chairs, which range from comb-back to bow-back to step-down versions. Their makers took advantage of the natural properties of different woods for particular components of the chairs, employing hickory, red oak, or ash for bent parts, maple for turnings, and pine for seats.

Kassay meticulously documents all of these features and styles with narrative descriptions and photographs of the 198 pieces under discussion. He also provides 34 full-page drawings (and lists of measured parts) so accurate and precise that amateur furniture makers can use them as blueprints for creating Windsor reproductions.



JOHN KASSAY taught industrial arts in junior and senior high schools and, for over thirty years, at San Francisco State University, where he is professor emeritus in the Department of Design and Industry. He is an accomplished draftsman, furniture maker, and photographer.

Design / Art and Architecture  
224 pp., 9" x 12" format, LC 97-39207  
211 illustrations, 34 measured drawings  
\$49.95t cloth, ISBN 1-55849-137-6  
June 1998

By the same author

## The Book of Shaker Furniture

"If you collect Shaker furniture, deal in it, or simply admire it, drop whatever you are doing and go out and buy [this book]. It is undoubtedly going to become a classic in the literature about the Shakers and their artifacts." —*Antiques Journal*

288 pp., 9" x 12" format, LC 79-4017  
254 illustrations, 71 measured drawings  
\$60.00t cloth, ISBN 0-87023-275-4  
1980

## **Mountain River**

Vietnamese Poetry from the Wars, 1948–1993

Edited by Kevin Bowen,  
Nguyen Ba Chung, and Bruce Weigl  
*Introduction by Nguyen Ba Chung*

An anthology that attests to the power of art to transform the trauma of war

This powerful and moving bilingual collection affirms the importance of poetry in the formation and perpetuation of Vietnamese national identity. These poems testify to the centrality of war in Vietnamese history and experience over the past fifty years. Beginning with Ho Chi Minh in the 1940s and moving forward in time to Nguyen Quang Thieu in the 1990s, the book presents significant poetry reflecting the thoughts and feelings of the major Vietnamese writers, who lived through many years of war, first with the French and later with the Americans.

*Mountain River* will serve as a valuable introductory survey of Vietnamese poetry written since World War II and as an example of the integral role of poets and poetry in Vietnamese culture.

"Translation of poetry from Vietnamese to English presents difficult problems; these translations are among the best I've ever seen. The book will appeal to scholars and teachers in the fields of Viet Nam War studies, postcolonial literary studies, and Pacific Rim studies. It could easily be used as a course text, as well as provide important material for scholars. . . . A most useful and beautiful work."—Renny Christopher, author of *The Viet Nam War/The American War: Images and Representations in Euro-American and Vietnamese Exile Narratives*

"The quality of the translations is excellent."—Ngo Nhu Binh, Harvard University



KEVIN BOWEN is director of the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. He is cotranslator of Le Luu's *A Time Far Past* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1997). NGUYEN BA CHUNG is an associate of the Joiner Center and cotranslator of *A Time Far Past*. BRUCE WEIGL is professor of English at Pennsylvania State University and cotranslator of *Poems from Captured Documents* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1994), a collection of Vietnamese soldiers' poetry.

Poetry / Viet Nam Studies  
304 pp.  
\$40.00s cloth, ISBN 1-55849-140-6  
\$15.95t paper, ISBN 1-55849-141-4  
July 1998

*Published with the cooperation of the William Joiner Center and the Viet Nam Writers Union, and with the support of the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry and the Eric Mathieu King Fund of the Academy of American Poets*

### *Of related interest*

#### **Writing between the Lines**

An Anthology on War and Its Social Consequences

Edited by Kevin Bowen and Bruce Weigl

*Foreword by Denise Levertov*

"An excellent compilation of poetry, short stories, essays, and novel excerpts from a group of top writers with ties to the Vietnam War."—*The Veteran* (Vietnam Veterans of America)

336 pp., LC 96-9591  
\$55.00s cloth, ISBN 1-55849-053-1  
\$17.95t paper, ISBN 1-55849-054-X  
1997

## The Double Task

Gray Jacobik

Winner of the 1997 Juniper Prize

The poems in this finely honed collection are of two kinds: those that seek to represent the world in its ephemerality, and those that generate a world's unfolding. Along a spectrum of various oppositions, in landscape and love poems, and in those that speak of music, painting, and film, Gray Jacobik enacts her double task: to bring our world palpably close and to transform that experience into art.

"The language of these poems is rich, sonorous, and precise. The intelligence is keen and never flagging. Add to this a sensuality that is occasionally sexy and always appealing. The combination of these qualities makes Gray Jacobik a rare poet, one not to be missed."—James Tate

"There is a sensuousness of language married to unabashed passion and the richness of her mind. . . . Jacobik captures female awareness in its physical magnitude and celebrates the larger, often ecstatic, victory beyond."—Linda Gregg

"Gray Jacobik's poems create and populate what she calls in one of them a 'quickened space.' Her attention to the things of the world is vigilant, celebratory, responsible—a quickening force. Sensuousness, surprise, sharp-mindedness are the distinguishing marks of *The Double Task*, making it a distinct and happy addition to contemporary American poetry."—Eamon Grennan

GRAY JACOBIK is associate professor of English at Eastern Connecticut State University. Winner of the 1997 Yeats Prize, she is also a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Creative Writing.

Some women hear skirts

murmuring or sighing, conversing with the flesh they cover. But most skirts drape in silence, the silence of slow snow falling, or the hushed liquid glide of a woman's body through a sunlit pool, the sweet descent to sleep, or passion, or passion's nemesis, ennui. A woman's spirit lengthens or widens in a skirt, magnified by cloth and cut and her stride through the quickened space. If instead a woman wears a tight skirt, she feels containment and its amplification — reduction's power to suggest.

— from "Skirts"

Poetry  
88 pp., LC 97-32622  
\$10.95t paper, ISBN 1-55849-142-2  
April 1998

## **Unlimited Embrace**

A Canon of Gay Fiction,  
1945–1995

Reed Woodhouse

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A superb literary roadmap of  
postwar gay fiction

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In this pathbreaking book, a gay literary critic evaluates a half-century of fictional works "by, for, and about" homosexual men and situates them in the context of an emerging American gay culture.

Reed Woodhouse shows how the best gay fiction of the period, like all good literature, not only reflected but anticipated social changes that were afoot—from the founding of the first enduring gay rights organizations through the Stonewall riots to the ambiguous mainstreaming of homosexuality that continues today.

Written in a personal voice, *Unlimited Embrace* is as much about gay identity as about gay literature. The canon Woodhouse constructs is not merely a list of gay books worth reading, but a guide to "leading a good life as a gay man" as well. In the fiction of Tennessee Williams, James Baldwin, Christopher Isherwood, James Purdy, Edmund White, Andrew Holleran, Larry Kramer, Ethan Mordden, Dennis Cooper, David Leavitt, and Neil Bartlett, Woodhouse finds intimate glimpses of lives previously veiled in euphemism, slander, and contempt and now striving to take new form. More than that, he raises questions about sexual identity and desire, defiance and wit, that are as relevant to straight readers as to gay ones.

Although the book ends with a sober consideration of the literary legacy of AIDS, *Unlimited Embrace* is more celebration than lament—an affirmation of the enduring power of literature to shape life.



"Woodhouse is a first-rate literary critic of the old school—of the sort I feared had become extinct from breathing the exhaust fumes of poststructuralism. In fact, he reminds me a bit of Edmund Wilson (I do not make this comparison lightly) in his shrewd book sense and his sparkling prose style."

—John W. Crowley, editor of *Genteel Pagan: The Double Life of Charles Warren Stoddard*

"One of those rare works of literary criticism that is itself a work of literature."—David Bergman, author of *Gaiety Transfigured: Gay Self-Representation in American Literature*

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Gay and Lesbian Studies / Literary Studies  
392 pp.  
\$29.95t cloth, ISBN 1-55849-132-5  
June 1998

REED WOODHOUSE teaches English at MIT. He is an associate editor of the *Harvard Gay and Lesbian Review* and a contributing editor with the *Boston Book Review*.

# Talking Back to Emily Dickinson, and Other Essays

William H. Pritchard

Eloquent commentaries on English and American writers

This collection makes the case for literary criticism as an informed, aggressive, personal, and often humorous response to writers and writing. An unrepentant academic, William Pritchard nonetheless finds himself looking vainly, in much current professional study of literature, for what he sees as criticism's central task. This involves, in part, an attentiveness to the performing voice of the novelist, poet, or essayist under discussion. To bring out that quality, the critic must exploit, with invention and intrepidity, his or her own responsive voice—must "talk back" to the work of art.

The essays, all of them about English and American writers, are arranged chronologically, beginning with Shakespeare and Edmund Burke, and proceeding through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to end with contemporaries like Kingsley Amis, V. S. Naipaul, and Doris Lessing. Pritchard writes with equal authority about poetry and fiction; the collection also includes assessments of critics such as Matthew Arnold and Thomas Carlyle, Ford Madox Ford and R. P. Blackmur.

"For many years now William Pritchard has seemed to me one of the finest literary critics actively involved in contemporary letters. He has broad taste but high standards. He is formidably well informed without ever being pedantic. He has no particular theoretical axe to grind but is by no means conceptually unsophisticated. And he writes with exceptional clarity and grace. All of these qualities are abundantly present in this

new collection of essays. I found something to enjoy, note, or admire on nearly every page."—Dana Gioia, author of *Can Poetry Matter?*

"These essays are responses of the best sort—opinionated, informed, highly articulate, but never, ever, pompous.... Pritchard is a wonderful writer."—Sven Birkerts, author of *The Gutenberg Elegies*

WILLIAM H. PRITCHARD is Henry Clay Folger Professor of English at Amherst College.

Essays / Literary Studies

304 pp.

\$29.95 cloth, ISBN 1-55849-138-4

August 1998

## By the same author

### Frost

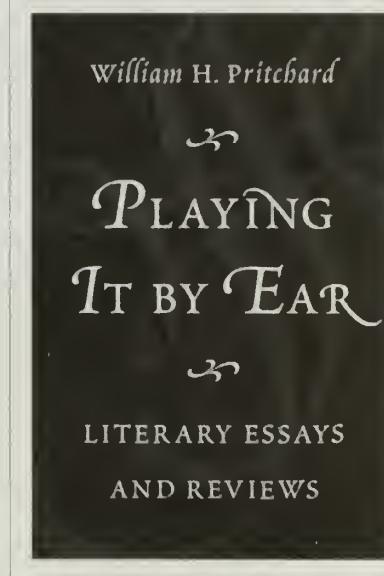
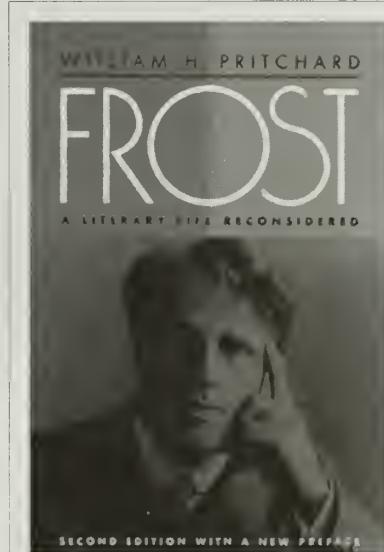
A Literary Life Reconsidered

Second edition, with a new preface

Named a Notable Book of the Year by the *New York Times Book Review*

"This deft, concise, readable literary life . . . puts the biographical emphasis where it belongs, on Frost's powerful and tenacious art."—*New York Times Book Review*

312 pp., 17 illustrations, LC 92-36872  
\$17.95 paper, ISBN 0-87023-838-8  
1993



### Playing It by Ear

Literary Essays and Reviews

"An attractive selection of Mr. Pritchard's work, high-spirited and exhilarating, written with grace in a style unclogged with theoretical argot."

—*New York Times Book Review*

288 pp., LC 94-12255  
\$45.00s cloth, ISBN 0-87023-947-3  
\$17.95t paper, ISBN 0-87023-948-1  
1994

## Epic Season

The 1948 American League  
Pennant Race  
David Kaiser

A dramatic account of baseball's  
greatest pennant race

This book recounts the story of one of the most memorable seasons in the history of major league baseball.

Drawing on interviews with surviving participants as well as daily newspaper accounts, David Kaiser re-creates the drama of the 1948 American League pennant race and places it within a broader historical context.

Unfolding at a time when baseball truly was America's "national pastime," the '48 season saw three teams vie for a championship that always seemed within reach but was never assured. In Cleveland, under the guidance of maverick owner Bill Veeck and charismatic player-manager Lou Boudreau, the Indians set new attendance records with a team that included the first black player in the American League, Larry Doby, and perhaps the most famous pitcher never to have appeared in a major league game, Satchel Paige. In Boston, Ted Williams enhanced his already fabled reputation with another extraordinary season, leading a Red Sox team that new manager Joe McCarthy had reshaped during the off-season. In New York, the defending champion Yankees struggled to repeat behind a crippled Joe DiMaggio, whose clutch hitting down the stretch enthralled baseball fans everywhere. In a year in which no team ever led the league by as many as four games, these three teams eventually found themselves in a tie with just nine days to go, and the season had to be extended to decide the race.



"The American League pennant race of 1948 was one of the most exciting in history, and David Kaiser's book does it full justice. This is a thoughtful, well-written, and beautifully researched book, one which is full of sharp insights about the game and how it was played a half century ago."—Don Zminda, STATS, Inc.

DAVID KAISER is professor of history at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He is author of *Politics and War: European Conflict from Phillip II to Hitler* and *Economic Diplomacy and the Origins of the Second World War* and coauthor of *Postmortem: New Evidence in the Case of Sacco and Vanzetti* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1985).

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American Studies / Sports  
320 pp., 31 illustrations  
\$55.00s cloth, ISBN 1-55849-146-5  
\$18.95t paper, ISBN 1-55849-147-3  
April 1998

# Accomplished in All Departments of Art

Hammatt Billings of Boston,  
1818–1874

James F. O’Gorman

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Resurrects the accomplishments of an important nineteenth-century artist

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This book reconstructs the career of Hammatt Billings, one of the most prolific and versatile artists of the nineteenth century. Skilled in a wide range of media, Billings designed furniture, statuary, monuments, architecture, and public and private gardens. He was a painter in both oils and watercolors, a portraitist, and an illustrator whose drawings appeared in the original American editions of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and *Little Women*.

Although Billings worked for many private patrons, he was also very much a public artist, giving visible form to the popular celebrations of his era. He designed fireworks displays for the Boston Common, decorated buildings in times of public celebration and mourning, laid out plans for a variety of fairs and festivals, and created floats for parades.

Extensively illustrated and meticulously researched, this book recovers the work of an enormously talented man and makes it clear that no discussion of nineteenth-century Boston or American culture can be complete without a consideration of Billings’s contributions.

“O’Gorman demands that Billings, who is today essentially unknown, be reconsidered in the context of his dazzling reputation in his own lifetime, when his ‘genius’ was fully recognized. . . . This book provides unique new insights into the culture of mid-nineteenth-century America. Its scholarship is impeccable.”—Margaret Henderson Floyd, author of *Architecture after Richardson: Regionalism before Modernism*



“Gracefully written in succinct and sharply focussed prose, this is a highly informative and quite original study that reflects almost as much virtuosity as did Billings himself.”—John Seelye, author of *Beautiful Machine: Rivers and the Republican Plan, 1755–1825*

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Art History / New England Studies  
320 pp., 101 illustrations  
\$39.95t cloth, ISBN 1-55849-148-1  
July 1998

A volume in the series *Studies in Print Culture and the History of the Book*

JAMES F. O GORMAN is Grace Slack McNeil Professor of the History of American Art at Wellesley College. His many books include, most recently, *Living Architecture: A Biography of H. H. Richardson* and *ABC of Architecture*.

# The Crisis of the Standing Order

Clerical Intellectuals and Cultural Authority in Massachusetts, 1780–1833

Peter S. Field

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A study of the clash of cultural elites in the early American republic

---

This book examines the demise of one Massachusetts intellectual elite, the Congregational Standing Order, and the rise of another, the Boston Brahmins, during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Peter S. Field traces this division within the culturally dominant class to the emergence of a new group of wealthy urban merchants, who funded Brahmin efforts to create America's first secular high culture. With the founding of the *Monthly Anthology*, the establishment of the exclusive Boston Athenaeum, and the takeover of Harvard College, the merchant-backed Brahmins constructed a competing locus of cultural authority against the claims of the orthodox ministry.

A social history of intellectuals, Field's study focuses on the issues of power, prestige, and self-interest that fueled the struggle between the Brahmins and their orthodox rivals. It shows how this internal strife not only led to the dismantling of the last established church in the United States, but also laid the groundwork for the American Renaissance of the 1830s and 1840s. According to Field, the generation responsible for that remarkable flowering of New England literary culture—the generation of Emerson and Thoreau, Hawthorne and Melville—can only be understood in relation to its Brahmin parents and ministers.

"Significant, well-written, meticulous in its research, and witty, Field's book makes a major contribution to our



understanding of religion in Massachusetts during the first third of the nineteenth century and to American intellectual history in general."

—Mary Kupiec Cayton, Miami University

PETER S. FIELD is assistant professor of history at Tennessee Technological University.

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American History / Intellectual History

280 pp.

\$39.95s cloth, ISBN 1-55849-143-0

August 1998

# In Search of New England's Native Past

Selected Essays by Gordon M. Day  
Edited by Michael K. Foster and William Cowan

A selection of core essays by one of the pioneers of Native American studies

This volume highlights the work of the late Gordon M. Day, renowned for his groundbreaking research on the history and culture of the Western Abenakis and their Indian neighbors. Where previous historians had tended to portray northern New England as an area largely devoid of aboriginal peoples, Day established beyond all doubt the presence of Abenaki settlements along the eastern shore of Lake Champlain as well as the upper reaches of the Connecticut and Merrimack rivers.

For nearly three decades, Day focused his work on the community of Saint Francis, or Odanak, in Quebec, to which Abenaki refugees from interior New England had fled, beginning in the mid-seventeenth century and continuing into the nineteenth. Drawing on the methods of several disciplines, including ethnology, linguistics, and ethnohistory, he synthesized data from fragmentary historical records, oral traditions, and place names to reconstruct a world assumed to be lost.

"Not only did Day 'pioneer' a new field, but his publications remain basic sources today for anyone at all interested in this field. His articles are superb examples of ethnohistoric methodology. . . . I would add that Day's prose is an absolute pleasure to read."—William A. Haviland, author of *The Original Vermonters: Native Inhabitants Past and Present*

"These essays confirm the astonishing breadth of Day's interest and scholarship and the meticulous, disciplined way he



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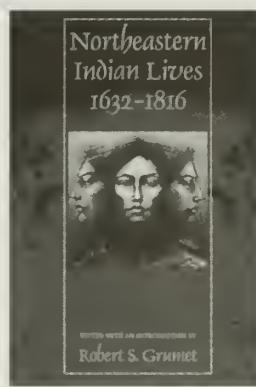
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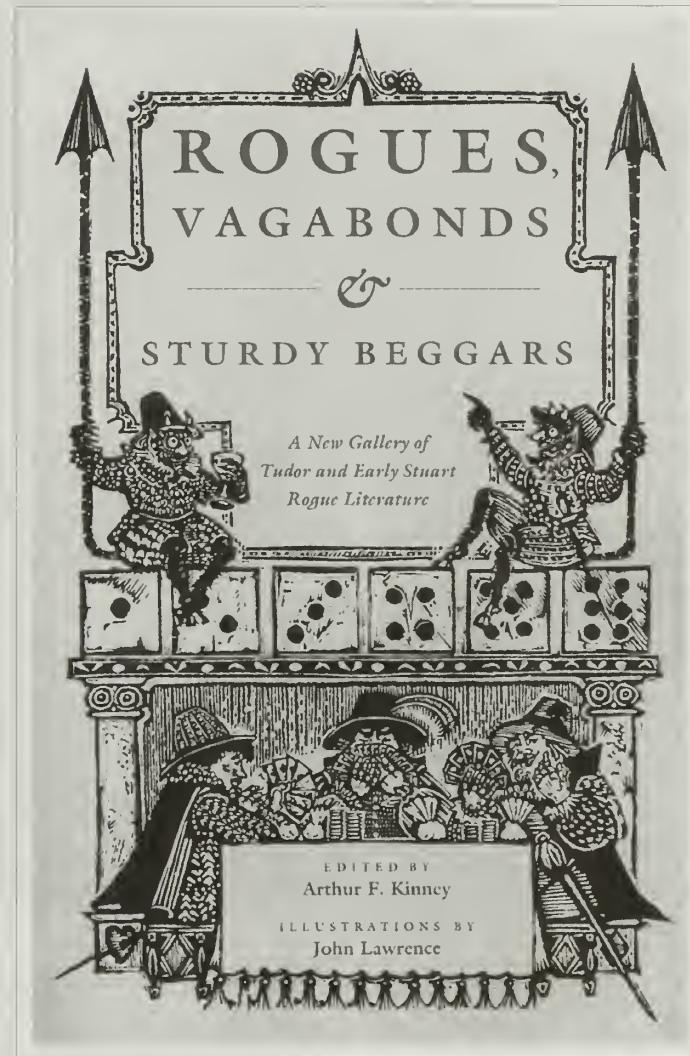
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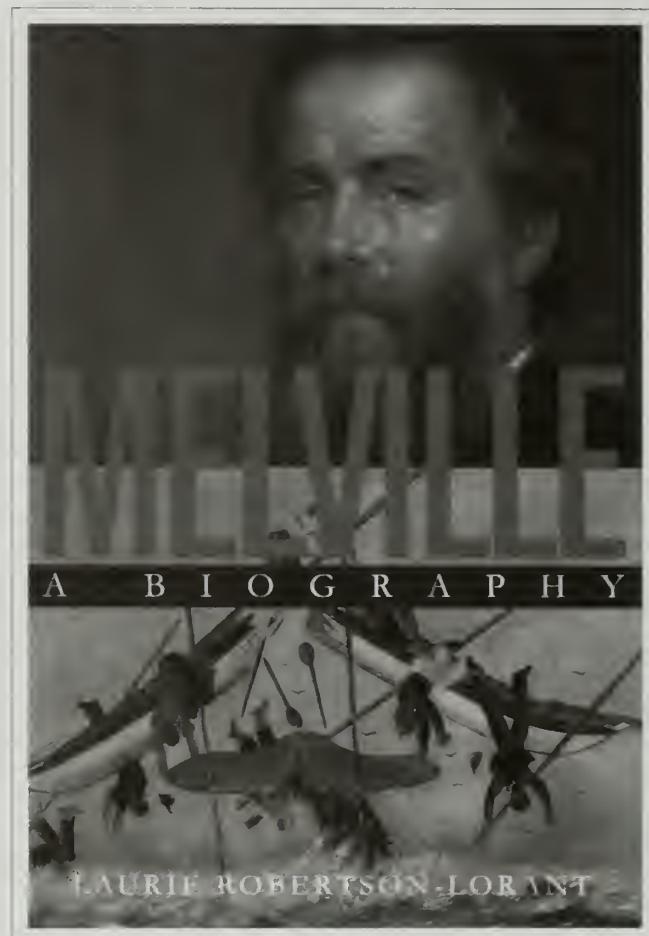
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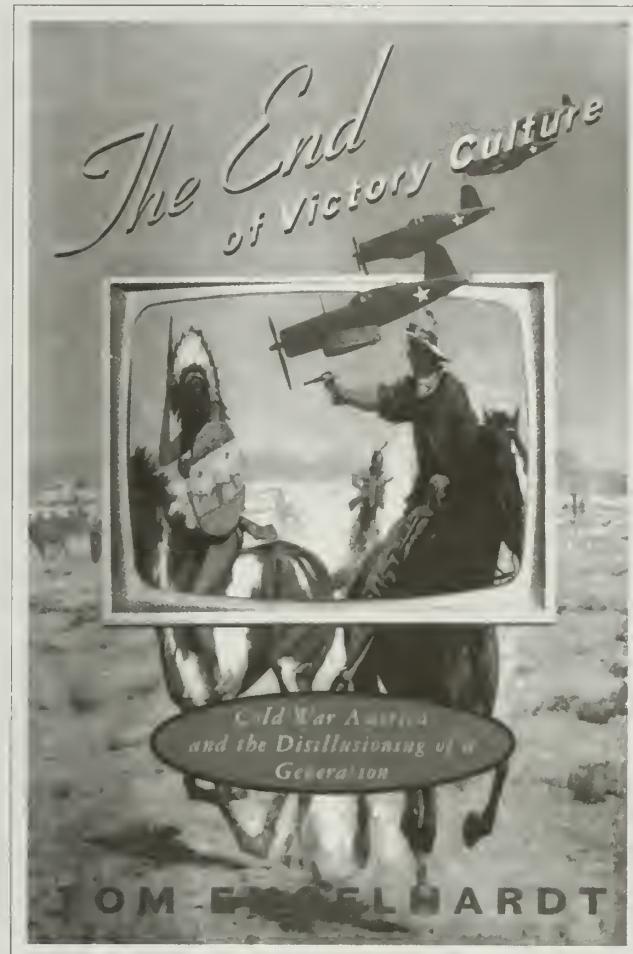
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TOM ENGELHARDT is consulting editor at Metropolitan Books and coeditor of *History Wars: The Enola Gay and Other Battles for the American Past*.

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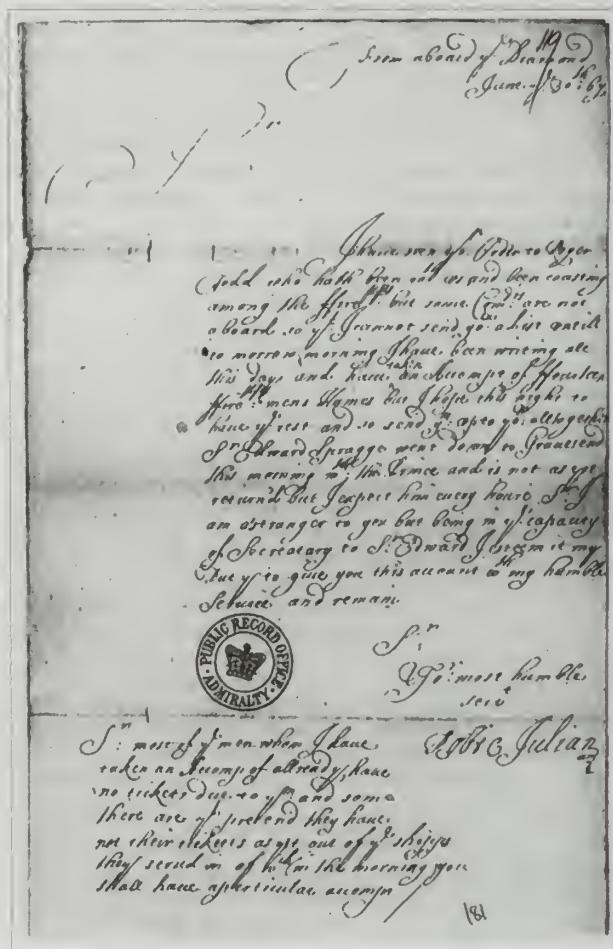
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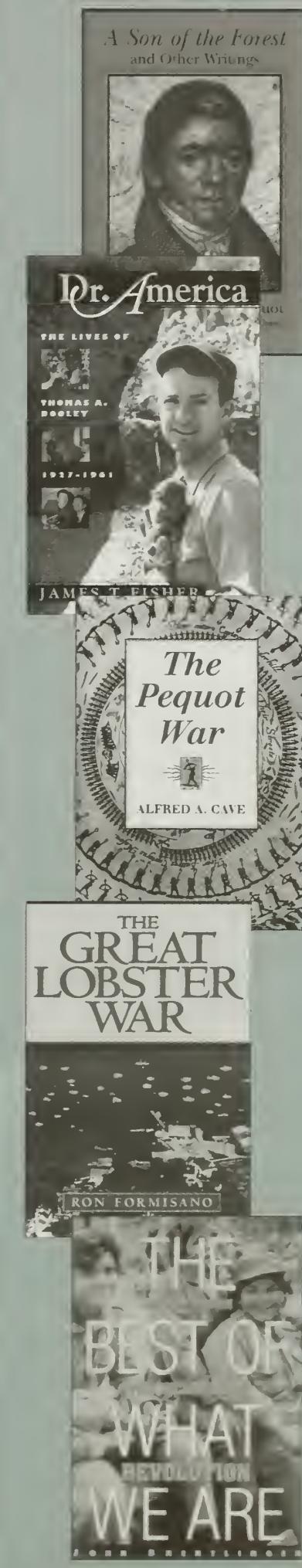
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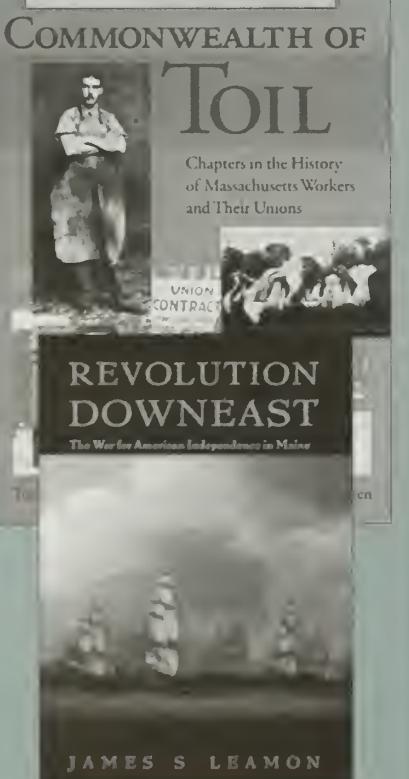
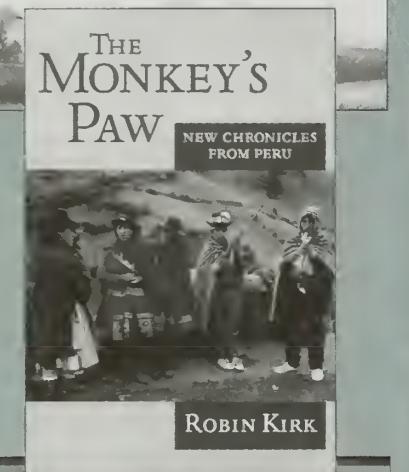
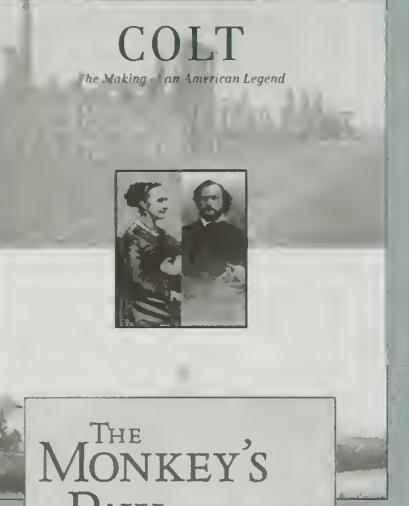
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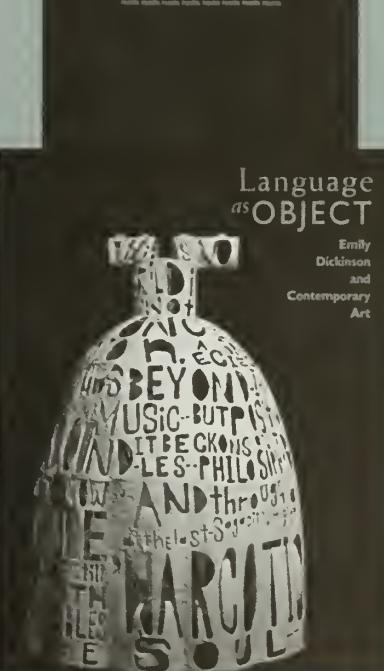
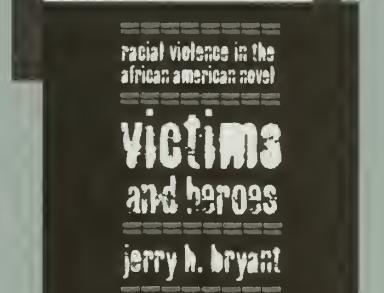
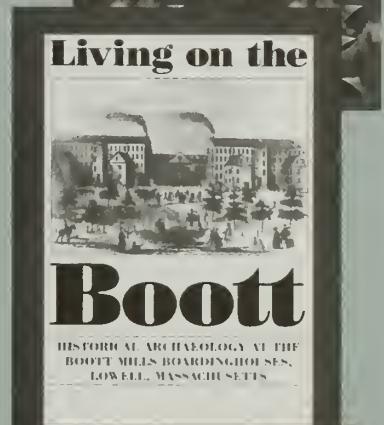
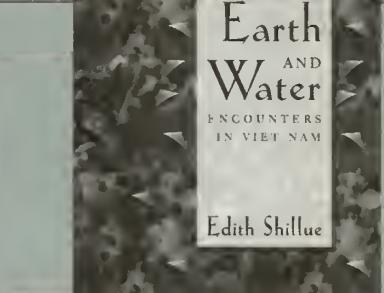
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